3. Tamil Nadu	—	IIT Madras
4. Uttar Pradesh	—	IIT Kanpur
5. Delhi	—	IIT Delhi
6. Assam	—	IIT Guwahati
7. Uttaranchal	—	IIT Roorkee

(b) and (c) At present the Government of India is not considering any specific proposal for opening of new UTs in the country.

Heavy school bag and homework

1974. SHRI S.M. LAUAN BASHA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has directed all schools to ensure that students are not over-burdened with heavy school bags and homework;

(b) the details of such guidelines issued by CBSE;

(c) whether it is a fact that schools have ignored these guidelines or directions of CBSE;

(d) whether CBSE will withdraw these infructuous guidelines; and

(e) the reasons for CBSE not following up these matters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has instructed all its affiliated Schools through circulars dated 8th February, 2003, 25th January, 2005 and 4th May, 2006 to implement certain measures to reduce the burden of heavy bag load on children. The Board has taken the following steps to make learning a joyful and exciting experience:—

(i) Policy of elimination of school bags for the students of Classes I and II.

(ii) No homework for students of Class I and II so as to enable them to spend quality time with the parents for their emotional empowerment.

(iii) Evolution of a concept of alternative to homework for the students of Classes III to V.

(iv) Concept of continuous and comprehensive evaluation from Classes I to VIII.

(v) Introduction of five-point grading scale from Classes I to V with no pass/fail criteria, and seven-point grading scale for Classes VI to VIII for implementation in a phased manner.

(c) These guidelines are being implemented in a phased manner by most of the Schools affiliated to CBSE.

(d) and (e) CBSE does not propose to withdraw these instructions. CBSE is following up the implementation of these programmes by maintaining periodic contracts with heads of institutions through induction courses.

Employment of students who have studied in Russia

1975. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many students who studied in Russia and other countries of former USSR and employed in various educational institutions in the country;

(b) whether it is also a fact that under the USSR system of education, the examinations are passed by grade and not by marks;

(c) if so, the details including the officially recognized equivalent percentage marks in India to Grade 5, Grade 4, Grade 3 and credit awarded by USSR and Russia; and

(d) the details of the institutions authorized to grant the above equivalence of percentage marks as on date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) No such information is maintained centrally.

(b) Association of Indian Universities (AIU) has informed that under the USSR system of education, the students are awarded grades, and not marks.